

Guidance Information

New Hampshire EQIP Rating Form - FY2002

General

These Rating Sheets were developed to rate EQIP applicants within certain primary areas of Environmental Concern as identified by the Local Work Groups for FY2002. Based on conservation needs, an applicant applies for assistance under one of the five categories below. These are: Farmstead Environmental Concerns, Cropland Environmental Concerns, Grazing Land Environmental Concerns, Forestland Environmental Concerns, and Water Conservation.

Rating Elements within each category address the primary threats to each resource concern. Some Rating Elements affect all five categories of Environmental Concerns and are the same on all five rating sheets.

Funding for each category will be based on the Percent of dollars requested for conservation practices within a category as compared to the total dollars requested for all categories.

Similar Environmental Rating Elements on All Rating Sheets

1. **Additional Practices Toward RMS (From Approved Practice List):** The practice must improve the treatment level in any of the 6 primary land uses (Headquarters or Farmstead, Cropland, Hayland, Pastureland, Forestland, or Wildlife Land). Do not count practices that are addressed in other sections of the rating form.
2. **Social Considerations (Cultural Resources):** These points are only awarded if applicant is working or will work with a Cultural Resource Specialist to install specific practices to protect identified National Register Eligible Sites in addition to practices addressing the Primary Environmental Concern, i.e., Farmstead, Cropland, etc.
3. **Animal Management (T & E Species):** Points are only awarded for actions planned that will protect T&E Species according to a plan developed with a biologist. Points can be awarded for either State or Federally Listed Species.
4. **Animal Habitat (Wetland Loss):** Negative Points are assigned based on the amount of wetland area affected by activities that are consistent with Food Security Act policy and State Wetlands regulations.
5. **Soil Erosion (Sheet & Rill and Ephemeral Gully):** Points are assigned based on the tons of soil saved on the treatment area (field or sub field area where treatment is needed).
6. **Soil Condition (Farmstead and Cropland Environmental Concerns and Water Conservation):** Points are assigned based on the acres of cropland that are planted to a cover crop, mulch tilled or mulched to improve soil condition.

Environmental Rating Elements

Farmstead Environmental Concerns:

1. **Water Quality:** Nutrient Management Applied according to approved plan uses a factor for the type of animals (dairy cattle, chickens, etc.) acres of land application, and number of Animal Units producing the waste.
2. **Water Quality:** Sediment (tons) Delivered to Surface Water including wetlands. Evidence of sediment delivery must be visible. Points per ton per acre are doubled if the waterbody is a Public Water Supply or if it is a feeder stream that is immediately upstream of a Public Water Supply.
3. **Water Quality:** Manure Storage points are based on type of animals, storage volume, and distance to surface water body. Distance Factor Points are doubled if near a Public Water Supply or a feeder stream immediately upstream of a Public Water Supply. The distance to the water body is measured as the flow path not a straight line distance.
4. **Water Quality:** Confinement area of animals that are not under a roof is computed based on type of animals, number of animals, and distance to surface water body. Distance Factor Points are doubled if a Public Water Supply or if a feeder stream immediately upstream of a Public Water Supply. The distance is measured as the flow path to the water body.

5. **Water Quality:** Runoff from Roof Areas and Farmstead areas (non-animal usage areas) contributing to potential water quality problems. Points based on surface area and distance to the water body. Points are doubled if a Public Water Supply or if a feeder stream to a Public Water Supply.
6. **Water Quality:** Milkhouse Waste Disposal points are based on Gallons per day/Animal Unit and the distance to the water body. Distance Factor points are doubled if the water body is a Public Water Supply or if a feeder stream immediately upstream of a Public Water Supply.
7. **Water Quality:** Silage Leachate points are based on the foot-print size of the bunk silo and the distance to the water body. Distance Factor Points are doubled if the water body is a Public Water Supply or if a feeder stream immediately upstream to the Public Water Supply.
8. **Water Quality:** Buffer Area points are based on the width of the buffer adjacent to the water body and the number of acres planned to be installed. Width Factor points are doubled if the water body is a Public Water Supply or if a feeder stream immediately upstream of a Public Water Supply. Quadruple points (4X) if a Forested Riparian Buffer is used.

Cropland Environmental Concerns

1. **Water Quality:** Buffer Area points are based on the width of the buffer adjacent to the water body and the number of acres planned to be installed. Width Factor points are doubled if the water body is a Public Water Supply or is a feeder stream immediately upstream of a Public Water Supply. Quadruple points if a Forested Riparian Buffer is used.
2. **Water Quality:** Sediment (tons) Delivered to Surface Water including wetlands as visually detected in the waterbody. Points per ton/acre are doubled if the waterbody is a Public Water Supply or is a feeder stream immediately upstream of a Public Water Supply.
3. **Water Quality:** Acres of Nutrient Management Applied based on actual acres applied.
4. **Water Quality:** Acres of Pest Management Applied based on actual acres applied. Includes invasive species control.
6. **Water Quantity:** Points applied based on the reduction of surface runoff from cropland by the application of approved practices. The difference in the RCN before and after and the acres applied are used to compute the appropriate points.
7. **Air Quality/Plant Condition:** Points assigned based on actual acres of windbreaks installed or reneved.

Grazing Land Environmental Concerns

1. **Soil Condition/Plant Condition & Management:** Points assigned per acre of Prescribed Grazing according to NRCS Standards and Specifications.
2. **Soil Condition/Plant Condition & Management:** Points for Acres of Nutrient Management based on the type of animals, acres where manure is applied, and number of animal units.
3. **Water Quality:** Buffer Area points are based on the width of the buffer adjacent to the water body and the number of acres planned to be installed. Width Factor points are doubled if the water body is a Public Water Supply or if a feeder stream immediately upstream of a Public Water Supply. Quadruple points (4X) if a Forested Riparian Buffer is used.
4. **Water Quality:** Feet of Surface Water (including wetlands) that are fenced to exclude animals based on actual feet of fence installed along the water body.
5. **Water Quality:** Winter Confinement Area and/or Manure Stacking Area points based on type of animals, animal units, and distance to water bodies. Distance Factor Points are doubled if the water body is a Public Water Supply or if a feeder stream immediately upstream of a Public Water Supply.
6. **Water Quality:** Runoff from Roof Areas and Farmstead Areas (non-animal usage areas) contributing to potential water quality problems. Points based on surface area and distance to the water body.
7. **Plant Suitability:** Points based on acres of Establishment or Enhancement of Preferred Grasses and Legumes where needed to promote Prescribed Grazing.

Forestland Environmental Concerns

1. **Water Quality:** Buffer Area points are based on the width of the Riparian Buffer adjacent to the water body and the number of acres planned to be installed. Width Factor points are doubled if the water body is a Public Water Supply or if a feeder stream immediately upstream of a Public Water Supply.
2. **Water Quality:** Sediment (tons) Delivered to Surface Water including wetlands as visually detected in the waterbody. Points per ton/acre are doubled if the waterbody is a Public Water Supply or if a feeder stream immediately upstream of a Public Water Supply.
3. **Water Quality:** Points for disturbed areas of soil protected such as Landings, Borrow Areas, and Cut Banks.
4. **Water Quality:** Points assigned for Feet of Road and Trails repaired and installed to NRCS Standards.
5. **Water Quality:** Points assigned for the number of surface crossings installed to NRCS Standards based on the linear feet of channel width or wetland width affected by the crossing.
6. **Water Quality:** Points assigned for Forest Stand Improvement practice that helps produce high quality water.
7. **Air Quality & Condition, Soil Condition, Plant Condition & Management:** Points assigned for acres treated with approved forestry practices meeting NRCS Standards for regeneration and establishment of tree species.
8. **Animal Habitat:** Points assigned for acres of riparian area treated to control invasive species.

Water Conservation

1. **Water Quantity:** Points assigned for reducing irrigation water usage by using proper water management based on acres applied and percent reduction of irrigation water.
2. **Water Quantity:** Points assigned for a planned irrigation tailwater recovery system to be installed.
3. **Water Quantity:** Points assigned for the construction of wetlands or sediment basins to treat water or collect sediment from irrigated areas.
4. **Water Quality:** Acres of Pest Management Applied based on actual acres applied. Includes invasive species control.
5. **Water Quality:** Acres of Nutrient Management Applied based on actual acres applied.
6. **Water Quality:** Buffer Area points are based on the width of the buffer adjacent to a water body and the number of acres planned to be installed.
7. **Plant Condition:** Points are assigned for activities to efficiently sustain plant vigor and survivability in an irrigation system.
8. **Plant Management:** Fixed amount of points assigned for implementing Nutrient and Pest Management.